(iii) According to British Government Policy the first two generations of offspring of BDTC and BN(O) passport holders, born after 1997, will be given the status of British Overseas Citizens (BOC). This would entitle them to British consular protection but not the right of abode in the United Kingdom. However, the third generation will not be granted this status and might therefore be rendered "Stateless" unless they have acquired citizenship of China or another country by then.

(iv) Government have raised this matter with the British and Chinese Governments. It has been the consistent position of the Government of India that the British Government has basic responsibility towards BDTC and BN(O) passport holders and that it should take the necessary steps to safeguard the status of these persons as British citizens. The British government have assured Hong Kong residents that they would consider it an obligation on any future government to treat with considerable and particular sympathy the case for admission to the United Kingdom of any British national who, against all present expectation, came under pressure to leave Hong Kong. Senior Chinese officials have also, on several occasions, stated that this group of persons did have the options of applying for Chinese citizenship.

High defence expenditure of Pakistan

*400. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been spending a high percentage of their GDP on defence year after year;

(b) if so, the percentage of respective GDP spent on defence by India and Pakistan during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether steps were taken by Government to invite attention of the UN to India's security concerns arising from the high level of defence expenditure by Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the result thereof and responses thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The percentage of GDP spent by Pakistan on its Defence increased reportedly from 6.88 percent in 1994-95, to 6.99 percent of GDP in 1996-97.

(b) Percentage of GDP reportedly spent by India and Pakistan respectively, on defence, is as under:

Year	India	Pakistan
1994-95	2.53	6.88
1995-96	2.39	6.88
1996-97	—	6.99

(Source: Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi)

(c) and (d) The United Nations do not provide a forum in which to reflect con cerns on the high level of defence expen diture being incurred by a neighbouring country. Our concern is, however, voiced suitably at other forums, whenever there is an appropriate occasion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Encroachments on Defence lands

2681. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Defence lands in India as on 1.12.1996;

(b) out of this, the area which is well protected:

(c) the total area of Defence lands on which there is encroachment; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect Defence lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Total area of Defence lands is 21.52 lakhs acres

(b) to (d) Out of (a) above, 6903 acres is under encroachment. All Defence land is placed under the management and custodial responsibility and protection of specific authorities as laid down in the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937 and Rules for the Acquisition, Custody and Relinquishment of Military lands in India (ACR Rules) 1994. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the authorities for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments as well as removal of existing encroachments under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Licences for using Internet

2682. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued for using Internet in India so far; and

(b) the licences fee payable for use of Internet facilities, by different category of Internet users?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) No licence is required for acessing the internet service nodes. However, a person has to subscribe to Internet service being operated by DOT/ VSNL. Number of subscribers of Internet service in India is approximately 20,700.

(b) No licence fee is payable by users.

Deregulation of Cotton Exports

2683. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 29th November, 1996 captioned "Cotton exports should be freely permitted" if India wants to generate the necessary investment to improve the existing poor standards of cotton ginning in the country;

(b) whether any survey in this regard was conducted by the Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (ICRA); if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government was showing considerable reluctance in deregulating cotton exports, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far to increase the production of cotton as well as an export strategy for cotton based products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is not aware of any survey having been conducted by the Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India (ICRA).

(c) There is no proposal, at present, to change the existing policy governing export of cotton. The policy seeks to balance on the one hand, the interests of the cotton growers so that they can get remunerative prices for their cotton and, on the other, the interests of cotton consuming sectors, in particular the decentralised sector and handloom weavers, so that cotton yarn is available to them at affordable prices.

(d) The Government is implementing an Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) to boost production of cotton in the cotton growing States. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) also supplements the efforts of the Government and the States concerned by undertaking extension and developmental activities. Appropriate steps are also taken, including the rough Export Promotion Councils, to encourage export of cotton based products.